



## 0320-0008 Phase 3B in Windsor, Windsor Locks, and Enfield Comment Response

Comment	CTDOT Response
<p>Hi Jonathan,</p> <p>We saw the notice of the public information held on January 28<sup>th</sup> at Windsor Locks Town Hall.</p> <p>Can you please let us know what the scope of work is in Windsor?</p> <p>Thanks,</p> <p>Patrick</p>	<p>Hi Patrick,</p> <p>Thank you for your email. The purpose of the project is to improve safety and capacity for the Hartford Line rail corridor restoring a double track for segments in Windsor/Windsor Locks, and Enfield.</p> <p>The scope of work for this project in Windsor includes restoring double track for approximately 2,000 feet just south of the Windsor Locks townline. Additional work in the town of Windsor includes drainage and railroad signal improvements.</p> <p>I have linked to the presentation from last week’s meeting below that includes detour and hauling route information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Presentation</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Meeting Minutes</a></li> </ul> <p>Thank you, The Hartford Line Rail Program Team</p>
<p>Ahlstrom Nonwovens LLC Comment on 320-8 Hartford Line Rail Program Phase 3B in Windsor &amp; Windsor Locks – February 2026</p> <p>Ahlstrom Nonwovens LLC (Ahlstrom) appreciates this opportunity to submit comments on Phase 3B of the Hartford Line Rail Program. Ahlstrom appreciates CT DOT’s efforts in holding the January 28, 2026 Public Information Meeting and in providing presentation materials from the meeting. Ahlstrom employs more than 300 employees at its facilities in Windsor Locks, including more than 200 employees at its location on the property adjacent to the Phase 3B project. Additionally, Ahlstrom operations rely on not only water from the canal adjacent to the Phase 3B project but specific characteristics of such water. Furthermore, most of Ahlstrom shipping and receiving is accessed via Bridge</p>	<p>The Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) has reviewed the comments submitted by Ahlstrom Nonwovens LLC regarding the Hartford Line Rail Program Phase 3B project and the Public Information Meeting held on January 28, 2026. The comments will be included in the project record and considered as part of the ongoing project development process.</p> <p><b>Safety</b></p> <p>As presented at the Public Information Meeting, the Phase 3B project proposes infrastructure improvements intended to enhance safety and capacity along the Hartford Line rail corridor, including proposed upgrades at existing grade crossings. Preliminary concepts shown in the meeting materials identified potential improvements at</p>



## 0320-0008 Phase 3B in Windsor, Windsor Locks, and Enfield Comment Response

Street and the bridge over the canal and railway tracks.

Ahlstrom's concerns include, but are not limited to, safety, environment and operations, and access.

### **Safety**

The January 28, 2026 presentation highlighted safety as a priority of the project. Currently more than 200 employees cross the single track twice daily, as they walk from and to the parking lot across Main Street. Currently, there are more than 400 track crossings per day. With a double track, crossings will be more dangerous as they increase to more than 800 track crossings per day. Furthermore, the addition of high-speed rail traffic will only exacerbate the danger to pedestrians crossing into the Ahlstrom facility.

Slide 15 of the materials describes grade crossing improvements at the Ahlstrom emergency road access and specifically lists "Gate Crossings," "Pedestrians Improvements," and "Safety Improvements." Similarly, Slide 16 of the materials describes grade crossing improvements at the Ahlstrom pedestrian crossing and specifically lists "Pedestrian Improvements" and "Safety Improvements."

To date, while Ahlstrom has had a number of communications with CT DOT, Ahlstrom remains very unclear as to the construction and maintenance details, not to mention financial impacts, of the referenced improvements for Ahlstrom. Ahlstrom respectfully requests additional information from CT DOT as to how the project improvements will specifically address the safety of Ahlstrom employees and guests.

the emergency access crossing and pedestrian crossing serving the Ahlstrom property, including gates, pedestrian features, and other safety elements.

Design of grade crossing improvements remains in a preliminary stage. Specific design details, operational characteristics, maintenance responsibilities, and implementation considerations have not yet been finalized and will be further evaluated as the project advances through design development, coordination with railroad operators, and applicable regulatory review processes.

### **Environment and Operations**

The project includes proposed replacement of the existing retaining wall located along the west side of the canal adjacent to the rail corridor. Information presented at the Public Information Meeting reflected conceptual design elements provided for public information purposes. Final design details, construction sequencing, and construction methods will be coordinated with Ahlstrom. Environmental review and permitting will be required prior to construction and will involve coordination with appropriate regulatory agencies, including the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. Effects to adjacent properties, utilities, and water resources will be coordinated and conducted in accordance with applicable state and federal environmental requirements as part of this process.

### **Access**

Temporary traffic impacts, including roadway closures and detours, may be necessary during construction of the Phase 3B project. Traffic management and detour plans will be



## 0320-0008 Phase 3B in Windsor, Windsor Locks, and Enfield Comment Response

### **Environment and Operations**

During the January 28, 2026 meeting, CT DOT stated that the existing retaining wall along the west side of the canal adjacent to the Phase 3B project will be replaced with a new concrete retaining wall. The replacement/construction process and the new wall will significantly impact Ahlstrom operations. The canal and the water the canal provides are vital for Ahlstrom operations. Specific volumes, flow rates, water quality, and other characteristics and parameters must be met. Ahlstrom and CT DOT/state officials have not discussed these necessary characteristics and parameters since almost six years ago (June 2020). Ahlstrom has not had adequate opportunity to fully address, with state officials (DOT or DEEP), the precautions required during construction to protect Ahlstrom's uninterrupted business operations. Ahlstrom respectfully requests additional communications with CT DOT and/or DEEP as appropriate on these matters which are crucial to Ahlstrom's continued and uninterrupted business operations.

### **Access**

The January 28, 2026 presentation identifies "Other Benefits" of Phase 3B as "[r]educe vehicle . . . emissions" and "energy/fuel savings with . . . fewer vehicle miles." We think you will agree, however, that the identified detour route during Bridge Street closures will only serve to increase vehicle emissions and increase vehicle miles for Ahlstrom shipping and receiving traffic. Ahlstrom acknowledges some road closures will be necessary for the project. However, Ahlstrom respectfully requests that Ahlstrom be better informed – well in advance – of road closures to allow Ahlstrom to prepare. Please note that CT DOT's recent road closure of Bridge Street failed to account for the significant impact to

developed as the project progresses and will be refined during later phases of design and construction planning. Coordination with municipalities and affected stakeholders will occur consistent with CTDOT's standard practices.



## 0320-0008 Phase 3B in Windsor, Windsor Locks, and Enfield Comment Response

<p>Ahlstrom operations caused by the disruption of traffic transiting to and from Ahlstrom via Bridge Street. Ahlstrom respectfully suggests that Ahlstrom and the project would benefit from improved communications with CT DOT in this regard also.</p> <p>Ahlstrom remains committed to working with CT DOT and looks forward to continued communications in that regard.</p>	
<p>Good evening,</p> <p>I was curious if there have ever been any plans, or are currently any plans to add more scheduled runs on the Hartford Line? I am specifically interested in a late night train for day trips to New Haven, as they can get cut quite short when I need to make it back to the station for a 10pm train with none other scheduled for the night. If you would like a more important anecdote, I also have classmates who rely on the Hartford Line to commute up to Hartford, and they have mentioned long waits in between train service to get back home.</p> <p>From a very transit oriented young person,</p> <p>-- Michaela McLeod-Fraser</p>	<p>Hi Michaela,</p> <p>Thank you for your comment. We understand that the schedule can sometimes create challenges for riders. We are in conversation with CTrail and Amtrak to potentially add additional service to the Hartford Line. This is something that is currently ongoing and requires coordination between many different entities. We hope to have more information to share in the future.</p> <p>The work related to this project in Windsor, Windsor Locks, and Enfield will improve safety and capacity for the corridor by establishing a double track, potentially helping to enable that additional service on the line.</p> <p>We will pass your comment along to Amtrak and the CTDOT scheduling team, but you can also reach out directly via:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CTrail Customer Service: <a href="https://ctrail.zendesk.com/hc/en-us">https://ctrail.zendesk.com/hc/en-us</a></li> <li>• Amtrak Customer Service: <a href="https://www.amtrak.com/contact-us">https://www.amtrak.com/contact-us</a></li> </ul> <p>Thank you, The Hartford Line Rail Program Team</p>
<p>Please thin out or remove trees on the canal bank on each side of the canal to open a vista towards the Connecticut River. Also, please</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. The purpose of the project is to restore the double track along the existing rail corridor, thus, the project work takes place on the west side of the canal.</p>



## 0320-0008 Phase 3B in Windsor, Windsor Locks, and Enfield Comment Response

<p>trim the trees between the new station and the old Burnap Mansion.</p>	<p>Trees will be removed as necessary in order to complete the work.</p> <p>Thank you, The Hartford Line Rail Program Team</p>
<p>When will the new Windsor Locks station open? What is the latest news on this project? There was a public meeting on 1/28/2026; is there a summary of it somewhere on the internet?</p> <p>I grew up in Windsor Locks and have been following efforts to get a new railroad station since the 1960s. When the new station opens, I will plan a trip to Windsor Locks just to take a train from this station. Can't wait.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. The new Windsor Locks Station is currently under construction with completion anticipated in Fall 2027.</p> <p>The presentation and meeting minutes from the Hartford Line Rail Program Phase 3B Public Information Meeting are linked below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Presentation</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Meeting Minutes</a></li> </ul> <p>We are very glad to hear that you are looking forward to the new station. Our hope is that the new facility will increase ridership on the Hartford Line from Windsor Locks and support local transit-oriented development opportunities around the station.</p> <p>Please do not hesitate to reach out with any additional questions or comments.</p> <p>Thank you, The Hartford Line Rail Program Team</p>
<p>Good morning, Jonathan.</p> <p>I will not be able to make the public information meeting on the Hartford Line tonight. I'm requesting the presentation and any recordings post-meeting.</p> <p>Thank you!</p> <p>Best, Dagmar Noll (<a href="#">hear name</a>) Principal Transit Planner Capitol Region Council of Governments 860-724-4321</p>	<p>Hi Dagmar,</p> <p>Thank you for your comment. We are always glad to hear from CRCOG. The presentation and meeting minutes from the Hartford Line Rail Program Phase 3B Public Information Meeting are linked below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Presentation</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Meeting Minutes</a></li> </ul> <p>Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any additional questions or comments.</p> <p>Thank you, The Hartford Line Rail Program Team</p>



## 0320-0008 Phase 3B in Windsor, Windsor Locks, and Enfield Comment Response

<p>Hello!</p> <p>I am wondering which design firm is working on the above project? And when is construction expected to begin?</p> <p>Thank you!</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. HNTB is the lead design firm. Construction is anticipated to start in Spring 2027.</p> <p>Please do not hesitate to reach out with any additional questions or comments.</p> <p>Thank you, The Hartford Line Rail Program Team</p>
<p>It would be beneficial to the community if a rails with trail could be included either as part of this project or a future project with consideration being made in this project for that potential.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. Multiuse trails are outside of the scope of the Hartford Line Rail Program. However, we sometimes work with groups like Rails to Trails Conservancy when possible, to help facilitate trails near CTDOT facilities and encourage you to reach out to them or your municipality with concerns about multiuse trails near rail facilities.</p> <p>Please don't hesitate to reach out with any additional questions or comments.</p> <p>Thank you, The Hartford Line Rail Program Team</p>
<p>Thank you very much for posting this new set of CTDOT web pages dedicated to the Hartford Line Improvements program.</p> <p>I have three questions about the station information on this page  <a href="https://portal.ct.gov/dot/programs/hartford-line-improvements/stations?language=en_US">https://portal.ct.gov/dot/programs/hartford-line-improvements/stations?language=en_US</a></p> <p>1. Springfield Union Station          The image shown on the Springfield Union Station section of the page shows the exterior of Springfield City Hall at 37 Court Street. It would be more appropriate to include an image of Springfield Union Station on this page.</p> <p>2. Windsor Station          Are the Windsor Station Design renderings that are linked in the Windsor Station section for</p>	<p>Hi Ben,</p> <p>Thank you for your comments on the new Hartford Line Rail Program website. We appreciate your recommendations to improve the website for users.</p> <p>The photos used on the website must either be owned by CTDOT or allow for fair use. We will replace the photo for Springfield Union Station during the next round of website updates.</p> <p>Renderings shown for the Windsor Station are for the new station work. Platforms at the station will remain relatively similar to how they function today but allow for more train cars to stop at the platform, enabling faster boarding/deboarding. The historic station will be replaced with a modern station with amenities that Hartford Line riders are used to</p>



## 0320-0008 Phase 3B in Windsor, Windsor Locks, and Enfield Comment Response

Phase 4 of the HL Rail Program? I'm asking because these renderings look to me, if I'm not mistaken, like what the station platforms look like at the moment. If this is the case then this should be explained on the page since some readers will assume that these renderings are for Phase 4.

### 3. Windsor Locks Station

Earlier this year media reports suggested that the new station in Windsor Locks would open by the end of 2025. Is this still the plan? If not, when do you expect that the station will open?

It would be helpful to include a planned opening date (even just the month/year) would be helpful.

Thanks,  
Ben

Ben Heckscher  
Co-founder  
Trains In The Valley

web | [trainsinthevalley.org](http://trainsinthevalley.org)  
Facebook | [Trains In The Valley](https://www.facebook.com/TrainsInTheValley)

seeing at other stations like Berlin, Meriden, and Wallingford. We will look for ways to make this distinction clearer on the website.

Windsor Locks Station is currently under construction and is anticipated to be completed in Fall 2027. CTDOT continues to apply for additional Federal funding to support future Station improvements.

We plan to update the website again in the Spring to reflect the most up-to-date construction schedule information.

Thanks again for your comments and interest in the Hartford Line Rail Program. Please do not hesitate to reach out in the future.

Thank you,  
The Hartford Line Rail Program Team